

DPHHS Immunization Program Newsletter March/April 2010

(406) 444-5580 www.immunization.mt.gov

Immunization News

Part 3 of Adult Immunization Standards

Previous issues of this newsletter have described the first five standards of improving immunization rates in adults. The first three standards were grouped under making vaccinations available, 1. Services readily available, 2. Barriers identified and minimized and 3. "Out-of-pocket costs minimized. Standards four and five were grouped under assessing patient's vaccination status. For a recap of standards four and five from last month's newsletter, 4. Routine review of patient's vaccination status, and 5. Look for valid contraindications to immunization.

Standard 6 is about educating the patient and risk communication. This is such an important standard that it is by itself. Healthcare providers should be sensitive to the patients' beliefs, concerns and cultural traditions. With today's rapid spread of informational mediums (Facebook, Twitter, Internet talk show hosts) patients are bombarded with vaccine science and pseudoscience. Providers need to be aware of what information is out there and realize that their patients may turn to people like Oprah Winfrey, Jenny McCarthy and Tom Cruise for advice. As healthcare workers we must help clients distinguish good information from misinformation.

The patient's health literacy level needs to be considered. As the healthcare system in general become increasingly complex, involving new technologies, scientific jargon, and complicated medical procedures and forms, healthcare providers should allot adequate time to review information to the patient. Moreover, care providers frequently need to communicate with patients who have different language and cultural backgrounds. Culture and ethnicity may influence patients' perceptions of health, illness, and the risks and benefits of immunizations. Differing cultural and educational backgrounds between a patient and provider also contribute to problems in the patient's comprehension of the importance of immunizations.

Vaccine Information Statements in many different languages can be attained at www.cdc.gov/nip. The Immunization Action Coalition http://www.immunize.org also offers immunization materials in many languages and mediums. The Vaccine Education Center of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia www.chop.edu provides videos,

informational tear sheets and information on every childhood vaccine. CHOP's site Vaccines: Separating Fact from Fear answers the most commonly asked questions about vaccines.

Healthcare professionals should respect the right of the patient to make an informed decision to accept or reject a vaccine. It is the responsibility of the provider to answer any and all questions the patient might have. Listen to the patient's concerns, and seek to understand why they are really rejecting the vaccine. Realize that all questions are valid and important to the patient. Be prepared to respond to a range of questions. Remember the seven C's of effective Communication, Competency, Caring, Credibility (HCW educated about vaccine benefits and risks), Clarity (plain language), Chemistry (partnership with patient), Consistency (vaccines protect people from disease) and Collaboration (work with other credible partners).

<u>Immunization Program News</u>

VFC News

Quick reminder, all VFC providers will be responsible for ordering their own Hib vaccine starting in April. If you have any questions contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580.

The FDA has approved Prevnar13® for use in children. This will replace Prevnar®. The Prevnar13® is a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine that will protect against 13 strains of streptococcus pneumoniae as opposed to the seven strains that Prevnar® protects against. PCV13 is now available to order. CDC will replace any remaining VFC doses of PCV7 with PCV13. We will order McKesson return labels for everyone who has received PCV7 and has not reported to Home IV pharmacy that they had run out of PCV7. Only VFC lot numbers are eligible for replacement. Remember that PCV13 has a different CPT code of 90670.

Immunization Regional Workshops

The "Save the Date" cards went out in February and a copy of it posted on our website at www.immunization.mt.gov. The workshops will be very informative and you will not want to miss it. We will be talking about NIS rates, childhood immunizations, VFC, new vaccines, WIZRD, Adult and Adolescent Immunizations, Hep B, and more. This conference is intended for Physicians, Physicians'

Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Clinic Nurses, IHS, Tribal, and County Public Health providers. The one day workshop is one day and starts at 8:30am and goes till 4pm, including a working lunch. Registration forms and a draft agenda were sent out at the end of March. Everyone attending the workshop will need to preregister. If you have not received the agenda and registration form, please call 444-5580 and Katie will send you the information. The following cities and date are:

- ➤ Great Falls at Hampton Inn—April 29 (Thursday)
- Miles City at Holy Rosary Hospital—May 4 (Tuesday)
- Billings at Mansfield Education Center—May 5 (Wednesday)
- Missoula at Wingate by Wyndham—May 11 (Tuesdav)
- Butte at Fairmont Hot Springs—May 12 (Wednesday)

Update on ETAP Process for IZ Registry

The State Immunization Program hosted two stakeholder meetings in late February. Goals and objectives were discussed regarding the ideas and requirements for an upgraded immunization registry. The next step of the process will be to use the information gathered from these meetings as well as the formal gap analysis to create official requirements for an upgraded system. These requirements will be used to create a outline for future planning.

Immunization Resources

Immunization Web-Based Training Course: You Call the Shots!

For those of you who have a new employee(s) learning about immunizations, "You Call the Shots!" is a great interactive web-based training tool provided by the CDC. The CDC just recently updated two of their training modules; Haemophilus influezae type B (Hib) and Influenza. This free web-based training course will provide an understanding of the basics and general recommendations on immunizations. Each module will provide you with great information, definitions, and give you a little quiz at the end of each module to confirm what you have learned. If you are interested in taking this free web-based training course go to: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.htm .

CDC Resource to Help Providers Talk with Parents about Vaccines

CDC, in collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians and American Academy of Pediatrics, has developed a web section titled Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents. It houses materials that can help providers talk with parents about vaccination, as well as fact sheets for providers and parents.

The Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents web section is a work in progress, with many more materials planned for inclusion. To access the web section, go to:

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/specgrps/hcp/conversations.htm

Recent MMWR Articles

A new MMWR Recommendations and Reports, "Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices", was published on March 19, 2010. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5902.pdf

MMWR Weekly Report, Volume 59, No. 9 published March 19, 2010 contains articles on the licensure use of PCV13 and the licensure and use of a new Meningococcal Vaccine, Menveo®, manufactured by Novartis. Menveo is a meningococcal conjugate vaccine that protects against meningococcal serogroups A, C, Y and W135, licensed for used in patients aged 2-55 years.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5909.pdf



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